

## **Business Roundtable Meeting Meeting Notes**

**Thursday, December 2, 2004**

**Attendees:** Richard Austin, Lenette Boisselle, Joseph Callanan, David Carlin, John Cahmbers, Gary Ezovski, Robert Gallagher, Michael Geisser, Gary Kauffman, Andrew MacManus, nJerry Meyer, William Reynolds **DEM Staff:** Dean Albro, Bob Ballou, Terri Bisson, Mike Cote, Ronald Gagnon, Tom Getz, Alicia Good, Terry Gray, Janet Keller, Terry Maguire, Steve Majkut, Mickie Musselman, Elizabeth Stone, Fred Vincent

1. **Greetings and Introduction** - Chair Gary Ezovski welcomed participants and led introductions.

### **2. September 2004 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes in the packets distributed to attendees were those from May 6, 2004.

Mr. Ezovski asked members to review the September minutes that had been emailed to them and notify DEM of any changes.

### **3. DEM Report:**

- Budget – Acting Director Fred Vincent reported that the budget is very tight and there is a slight deficit currently, but he expects to end the fiscal year in the black. The FY2006 budget that is in development has a 10% reduction in programs, representing \$3.1 million. Approximately \$1 million of that consists of 20 layoffs, and the remaining amount may be made up through raising fees and eliminating a fee exemption. Personnel account for over 82% of DEM's budget so there is very little to cut except for layoffs. Vincent said we are beyond the point where we can shave off FTEs here and there and at the point of cutting programs after 6 years of 5% to 10% cuts every year.
- Personnel – Vincent said despite the budget news we are recruiting for some positions. The FTE cap is 539 and we have about 508 to 510 FTEs now.
- Bond (plans/next steps) – The \$43 million land and water bond passed in November. The money will be used for point and nonpoint source pollution abatement, land acquisition, recreation development and drinking water supply.
- Legislative Agenda – Bob Ballou said it is early to report, DEM has not heard from the Governor's Office on our submittal. It does seem likely that the cesspool bill will be re-submitted as that is a high priority for the Governor.
- Boards and Commissions – Vincent said because of passage of the Separation of Powers Act the legislature will be looking at boards and commissions to see what positions can be eliminated or revised. There are potentially about 400 positions to be reviewed. DEM is concerned about two commissions, CRMC and RIRRC.
- Regulatory Updates

- Steve Majkut reported that DEM is developing regulations for the California Vehicle Emission Standards (aka. CA-LEV), to be adopted by the end of the year to avoid losing a model year. The standards will lower emissions of VOCs, toxics and greenhouse gases. A stakeholder group that includes auto manufacturers has worked with DEM on the development of the regulations.
- Water Quality Regulations – Angelo Liberti said DEM published notice of changes to the Water Quality Regulations November 26. Most of the changes were made to align with EPA changes, such as the adoption of the EPA indicator organism (enterococci) for beaches. The changes will also streamline Water Quality Certifications. DEM will hold a workshop on the regs December 9 and a public hearing on January 14.
- Used Oil Regulations – Dean Albro said DEM held public workshops on the Used Oil Regulations in October and November. Eight companies were invited and four participated. The next meeting will be on fees and will be held December 9. Ezovski complimented the staff who worked on the regulations (Lori Grandchamp and Sean Carney).

#### **4. Presentation: FY04 Progress Report/Development of Next Work Plan**

Janet Keller reported on DEM progress toward meeting its goals in FY04. Highlights included legislation and other official actions to improve water quality in Narragansett Bay and to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Some of the work that was delayed was due to the work that was accomplished on Narragansett Bay issues because of the fish kills and beach closings. She also said we are beginning to develop the FY2006-2007 Strategic Work Plan and will welcome input on that plan. Director Vincent said DEM is the only agency that prepares a two-year work plan and an annual progress report on the work plan and these are valuable in budget discussions.

#### **5. Demonstration: Field Investigation and Remediation Support Team (FIRST)**

Mike Cote described DEM's new FIRST program, introduced to the public today at a press conference. Similar to a Crime Scene Investigation Unit, FIRST searches for underground contamination and has already saved the Department about \$350,000 and has given us the capability of better response to emergency situations. The team has acquired a Geo probe and gas chromatograph that enables them to investigate sites; drill monitoring wells, and map sites quickly.

#### **6. Other**

Terry Gray said DEM is looking for input on the site remediation program to help make the process faster, more consistent and more predictable. He asked members to let him know where they see the most friction points to help in drafting a guidance document.

#### **7. Future Meeting Dates/Topics**

- Approved 2005 Meeting Dates:  
February 3  
May 5  
September 8

December 1

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